PART 4 – COUNCIL

56. The council shall be composed of ex-officio (non-voting) and voting members as set out below.

(1) Ex-officio members

The president of the Association;
Representative body chair;
Representative body deputy chair;
Council chair;
Treasurer;
The Northern Ireland council chair;
The Scottish council chair;
The Welsh council chair;

And,

If there is no voting medical student member remaining on the council, one medical student member (who shall have been elected annually by way of a mechanism to be considered by the medical students committee).

And the chairs of those committees and boards as specified annually by council, having regard to the advice of the organisation committee, subject to the proviso that the number of ex-officio members (excluding the four chief officers: The president of the Association, the representative body chair, the council chair and the treasurer) shall not exceed half that of the total number of voting members.

(2) Voting members

1. Council shall consist of between 58 and 74 voting members.

2. Voting members will be elected by secret ballot by single transferable vote.

3. Voting members of council shall be drawn from the following three categories:

   (a) all UK nations / regions (as defined in paragraph 2.1 below);

   (b) all branches of practice (as defined in paragraph 2.2 below); and

   (c) across the UK generally (as further described in paragraph 2.3 below),

   in each case in the number of seats set out in those paragraphs.

4. In the geographical electoral category, the electorate will be those members residing in that nation / region. In the branch of practice electoral category, the electorate will be those members engaged or employed in the respective branch of practice. In the UK electoral category, the electorate will be the whole of the membership.

2.1 UK nations / regions (“Geographical”)

The UK nations / regions, and the number of seats each shall have on the council, shall be as follows:

London – 4 seats, of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender

Scotland – 2 seats
Wales – 2 seats
Northern Ireland – 2 seats
North east – 2 seats
North west – 2 seats
South central – 2 seats
South east coast – 2 seats
Eastern – 2 seats
South west – 2 seats
West Midlands – 2 seats
East Midlands – 2 seats
Yorkshire – 2 seats

2.2 Branches of practice (BoP)

The branches of practice categories, and the number of seats on the council allocated to each are:

(a) General practice – 4 seats (if 4 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above are filled by a GP, otherwise 5 seats), and in any case no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender

(b) Consultants – 4 seats (if 4 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above are filled by a consultant, otherwise 5 seats), and in any case no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender

(c) Staff and associate specialists – 2 seats (if 2 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above are filled by a staff and associate specialist, otherwise 3 seats)

(d) Junior doctors – 4 seats (if 4 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above are filled by a junior doctor, otherwise 5 seats), and in any case no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender

(e) Public health medicine and community health – 1 seat (if 1 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above is filled by a public health doctor, otherwise 2 seats)

(f) Academics – 1 seat (if 2 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above is filled by an Academic, otherwise 2 seats)

(g) Armed forces – 1 seat

(h) Occupational medicine – 1 seat

(i) Members in practice but not covered by (a) to (h) above – 1 seat

(j) Retired members – 1 seat

(k) Medical students – 3 seats (if 3 or more of the Geographical seats set out in 2.1 above are filled by a medical student, otherwise 4 seats), and in any case no more than 2 of which shall be elected from the same gender.

2.3 UK-wide

UK-wide seats on the council shall be either Direct UK seats or General UK seats.

(a) The number of Direct UK seats shall be:

i. in the case that the maximum possible number of seats in the BoP
category are filled, 5 seats, of which no more than three shall be of the same gender;

ii. in the case that all but one of the maximum possible number of seats in the BoP category are filled, 6 seats, of which no more than four shall be of the same gender; or

iii. in all other cases, 7 seats, of which no more than four shall be from the same gender.

(b) The number of General UK seats shall, subject to bye-law 58(8), be 20 and they shall be subject to a counting constraint to ensure that, so far as is feasible without altering the results of the Geographical, branch of practice or Direct UK seats no more than two thirds of all the elected members in all categories together shall be from the same gender.

Council shall have the right to amend the categories of branches of practice and shall define the criteria for each branch of practice from time to time, having regard to advice from the organisation committee.

57. Not allocated

58. Mode of Nomination and Election of Elected Members of Council

(1) All candidates shall be voting members of the Association.

(2) A candidate’s UK nation or region shall be determined by their address on the Association’s register of members at the time when nominations in the election open.

(3) A candidate’s primary branch of practice shall, save for medical students and retired members, be determined by that category of medical work in which, at the time when nominations in the election open, the candidate spends the majority of their remunerated medical time.

(4) In the event of a dispute as to a candidate’s eligibility to stand for election, the decision of the returning officer shall be final.

(5) In the event of a tie in the election, the result will be decided by drawing lots in the presence of the chief executive and the independent scrutineer for the election.

(6) A candidate may nominate themselves for only one of the following categories: (i) Geographical, (ii) BoP and (iii) Direct UK. All candidates who have nominated themselves in the Geographical, BoP or Direct UK categories will also be automatically entered into the General UK-wide ballot.

(7) A candidate who is elected to a seat in the Direct UK category shall be removed from the ballot for the General UK seats, and their votes shall be redistributed.

(8) If a candidate who is elected to a seat in the Geographical or BoP categories is also elected to a General UK seat, this shall have the effect of reducing the number of General UK seats by one.

(9) There shall be no age restriction on membership of council.

Term of Office and Eligibility for Re-election

59. (1) Voting members of council shall hold office for four years from the conclusion of the annual representative meeting in the year of their election until the conclusion of the fourth next following annual representative meeting.
(2) Voting members of council shall be eligible for re-election provided always that they continue to qualify for election.

(3) Ex-officio members of council shall hold office until the election of their successors.

Vacancies

60. Any casual vacancy in the council shall be filled by council, in its discretion and having regard to the branch of practice and geographical balance of council, appointing a member of the Association it reasonably believes to be qualified to fill the vacancy. The person filling the vacancy shall retain their office until the next election and they shall have a vote.

61. Not allocated.

62. In the case of a vacancy in the council occasioned by a failure to elect, the council in its discretion may appoint a member of the Association qualified to fill the vacancy and the person filling the vacancy shall retain their office until the next election but they shall have no vote.